2015 GISS Intermediate Class
March 26, 2015 1035 –
Open Discussion
Note taker: Elizabeth Hale

Tip sheets and job aids available on Intermediate Class DVD and GISS Hard Drive
VFR style sheet for aviation hazards, must install to use

QR Codes
- Issues with team transitions using QR codes
- James FWS – CA Team 1 Sit Unit took over QR function, $100/yr for subscription, one QR code for the whole incident, user select map from web site (foursquare.com), there is no transition to the next team to continue using their QR code
  - Suggest having GACC pay subscription and host web site so everyone at incident can use it, continuity
  - QR code for GACC, then folders to select incident and retrieve maps
- How do QR codes work with AGOL?
- Fred CAL FIRE – CAL FIRE incident teams use Box (each team has login for posting, link can be shared) create one folder with QR code, subfolders by day, maps in those folders; situation unit puts QR code on IAP map
  - Non-date specific maps go into the root folder such as transportation map
  - Box assigns functions, three levels of privileges
- Kevin LA County – Workflow to post only the current maps, take down old maps so the QR code always go to current
  - Each fire pick a different color QR code so you can easily identify if you have the wrong QR code on a map
- Lorri USFS – Some services now stick a logo behind QR code
- QR code link to the folder v. to the map, or to a site like Google Sites, which was somewhat cumbersome
- David Collins – Firefox Portable with QR code plugin to take any link on a webpage and makes a QR code
- See Carl Beyerhelm QR code tools, tip sheets; Lorri would consider arranging a webinar with Carl
- Kyle Felker – Loves Dropbox, it just works, but has been steered away; ran into trouble with using folder on FTP site
- Follow GSTOP posting standards first, push to FTP site first, if you are using Dropbox, Google Sites, etc.
- Deb Traver – FTP site was problematic, Dropbox convenient but no way to put a delete protection on your documents, lean toward recommending Google Drive
  - Watch out: USFS employees could not download documents from Google Drive, workaround to use a personal Gmail account to share Google Drive documents outside DOI
- Steve Kennedy – Hoping to get an anonymous FTP site within Ventura County, but will require posting twice, hoping for a county location on NIFC someday

NIFC FTP Site
- Running on Windows Server 2003 and support will not continue past June 2015

- Three separate teams reviewing needs and requirements for something new to come out around June 2015; best case scenario – mimic our current setup; worst case scenario – individual logins for everyone
- Would be nice if the new system supported AGOL

ArcGIS Version
- ArcGIS recommended version for fire season? Rich sees 10.3 issues with Create Index Map tool in CAL FIRE tools not fully finishing the code. Not sure what CAL FIRE will recommend.
- USFS recommending 10.2.2.
- Geodatabase compatible between versions.
- Watch out: MXD needs to be created in 10.2. A 10.3 user cannot save an ArcMap that was created in 10.2, only Save as Copy. Also must save layer files in 10.2.
- Lorri PL – uses naming convention with MXDs with version number in the name.
- Concerns for the future with implementing ArcGIS Pro.

GISS Trainees
- To get GISS Trainee signed off, you cannot stick them on the same stinkin' map every day! You do them a disfavor if you sign someone off when they didn't get experience with that map.
- Melanie Hans – concerns about trainees arriving with weak ArcGIS skills
- Rich Strazzo – trainee is supposed to working with a fully qualified person, the whole deal with trainees is that you cannot expect they are fully qualified, but they come in at all levels, they slow down your shop if you're waiting for them to crank out a map, need to send people home who will not work at all – you always have that ability as a lead!
- Melanie Hans – had someone who didn't know the software, cannot teach someone to use ArcGIS on a fire assignment, dealing with issues of making maps in 30 minutes to plotter
- Lorri PL – wondering how to deal with people who don't do well in the class, but their FMO or training officer sent them and they get entered in ROSS, request being notified about problem trainees
- Fred CAL FIRE – likes to have trainee on day shift to practice skills, then start updating maps on night shift, good maps to assign are progression because less time sensitive; it's the stress they ultimately have to get used to
- Rich Strazzo – have to weigh out each person
- Greg – a lot of skill range between GIS analysis v. editing, publications from ESRI Press, some have been discontinued which is unfortunate, need to re-emphasize the basics of editing and in-and-out knowledge of FIMT, need to customize the toolbars to get the editing tools you want
- Lorri PL – will push out more resources from universities, etc., about editing
- Fred CAL FIRE – important to put trainees to the test
- Deb Traver – all AGOL testing done was in 10.2.2; don't rush on getting trainees signed off, fully qualified GISSs are not following GSTOP which makes transitions very challenging
    - Lorri PL – in some cases it could be the Sit Unit Leader, when you decide not to follow the standards you are breaking other dependencies such as GeoMAC
- Garrett LA County – is the expectation of being signed off that you are ready to be in a lead role?
    - Melanie Hans – yes
- Lorri PL – would like to assemble tools for leads
- Any GISS on an incident can sign off a task book, therefore you have responsibility to make sure they can do the task before you sign off; fully qualified GISS have responsibility to practice their skills and ensure they are up to speed for season

- Steve Kennedy – maybe there is room for re-qualification, complete some exercises, continuing education credits
- Aaron Seifert – two way learning environment, feedback, troubleshooting is huge
- Nadia – having trouble getting a training assignment, nothing on BAER counts toward task book
    - Training officers submit weekly priority training list to GACC, but make sure you are actually available for a full two weeks
    - Talk directly with GISS team leads to get name requested
- Jim Gonzales – training officer wants to sign you off the first year, may put pressure on you because they feel like you're holding up a spot that should go to someone else, first year just did the same two maps
- Lorri PL – ongoing issue with not cleaning out the trainee list in ROSS
- Darrin – frustrated with time lag in ROSS (over 24 hr), people not allowed to head to fire until they get their order
- David Collins – performance rating works as a tool to mentor trainee
- Bruce Lodge – become a lead by being in wrong place at the right time, able to identify 2-3 people by name to put on a call sheet which got them on the road almost at the same time as the team
    - "Supplemental order" on CAL FIRE side, "pre-order" on federal side, call the individuals to make sure they are available
- Lorri PL encourages networking

AGOL Collector
- Tiffany's experience with damage assessment was using built-in GPS in iPADs and iPhones which worked adequately, accuracy not affected by cell service or data plan